

Memo

To: Board of Managers
From: Michael Younes, Director of Municipal Operations *[Signature]*
CC: Shana Davis-Cook, Village Manager
Date: 9/4/2014
Re: Village Food Waste and Recycling Questionnaire – Follow-up

At the Board's July meeting, staff presented its research to explore how to further expand the Village's efforts toward being a "greener" community. As part of the discussion, staff outlined several initiatives that the Village could promote and support to reduce the amount of waste being sent to landfills including food waste composting.

Following the discussion, the Board tasked staff with developing a questionnaire to solicit resident interest in implementing a food waste recycling program and whether residents would be willing to fund the new recycling program. In order to assist staff in developing the questionnaire, Board Secretary, Mr. Richard Ruda and the Environment & Energy Committee volunteered to help.

Over the summer, with the assistance of Mr. Ruda and Environment & Energy Committee Liaison, Mr. Oliver Davidson, the attached cover letter, questionnaire, and FAQ document were developed for the Board's review and comment.

Next Steps

Once approved by the Board the cover letter, FAQ and questionnaire will be direct mailed to all Village homes to solicit feedback. After a date certain, the data gained for the returned questionnaires would be compiled and presented to the Board for further consideration.

Attachments

- 1) Village Food Waste and Recycling Cover Letter
- 2) Composting FAQ
- 3) Questionnaire

CHEVY CHASE VILLAGE

ESTABLISHED 1890

<DATE>

Dear Residents:

Many Village residents recycle paper and plastic as a matter of course in order to reduce the amount of waste deposited in landfills and to facilitate the reuse of these materials.

Another type of recycling for landfill reduction and reuse is "composting" of such everyday matter as coffee grounds and filters, egg shells, other food waste, and the like. In the Village, these materials are currently placed in the trash and thereafter disposed of in landfills. Composting can provide an environmentally-friendly alternative by recycling these materials rather than disposing of them. Communities throughout the country have adopted voluntary composting programs. In our own region, these include the Town of Chevy Chase, City of Takoma Park, and Town of University Park.

In order to gauge potential resident interest in implementing a food waste recycling program (e.g., table scraps, including fruits, vegetables, grains, fish and animal products and by-products), the Chevy Chase Village Board of Managers has requested that Village staff and the Environment and Energy Committee survey residents' interest in implementing a food waste recycling program. This effort would be a separate activity, in addition to the Village's current trash and recycling collection programs.

The attached questionnaire is being sent to all Village households. We request that you complete and return this questionnaire to the Village office as soon as possible, but preferably no later than _____, 2014. Once the questionnaires are received, the results will be posted on the Village website and presented to the Chevy Chase Village Board of Managers for consideration.

For more information about composting, such as the list of compostable materials, how composting works, and other FAQ's, please see the reverse side of this letter.

Should you have any questions, please contact the Village office via e-mail at ccv@montgomerycountymd.gov or by phone at (301) 654-7300.

Sincerely,

Enclosures

CHEVY CHASE VILLAGE

5906 Connecticut Avenue
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815

Phone (301) 654-7300

Fax (301) 907-9721

ccv@montgomerycountymd.gov
www.chevychasevillagemd.gov

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Village Food Waste and Recycling Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is Composting?

A. Composting is the natural aerobic (with oxygen) decomposition of organic matter into nutrient rich soil.

Q. Why Compost?

A. Composting diverts food scraps from landfills and incinerators. Composting is a sustainable alternative that can put nutrients from food scraps back into the earth to produce organic fertilizer.

Q. What can I compost?

A. There is a ton of items that can be composted, here is an abbreviated list: Egg Shells, Fruit Peels, Vegetables, Coffee grounds and filters, Tea bags, bread and pasta, paper, paper towels, Meat, bones, fish, shells, Dairy, cheese, butter, yogurt

Q. Isn't Composting difficult?

A. No. Composting can be as simple as setting aside a space in your yard to place the food waste to allow it to break down. Or you can contract with one of many companies to collect your food waste for a fee and compost it for you.

Q. Can compost harm plants?

A. In general, compost is good for plants -- it helps build soil structure, retains moisture, increases soil organic matter, and provides a slow release of nutrients important for plant growth. If you use compost that has not adequately matured, however, it may cause chemical burns on plants or compete with them for use of soil nitrogen.

Q. How do you keep rats away?

A. The best way to keep rodents and other animal pests from becoming a problem is to avoid creating conditions that will attract them. If you add meat or dairy products, or leave cooked foods such as pizza crusts lying around, you will be inviting rodents to a feast. On the other hand, if you stick to composting vegetation such as leaves and grass clippings, you will minimize your chance of hosting rodents. Adding fruit and vegetable scraps is safe as long as they are buried in the other compost ingredients and the system heats up so that the food wastes are quickly broken down.



Village Food Waste and Recycling Questionnaire

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This questionnaire is being sent to all Village households. We request that you complete and return this questionnaire to the Village office as soon as possible, but preferably no later than _____, 2014. Once the questionnaires are received, the results will be posted on the Village website and presented to the Chevy Chase Village Board of Managers for consideration.

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Address: _____

Do you currently recycle most paper, cardboard, cans and bottles in your house?

☐

YES

☐

NO

How does your household dispose of food waste, such as table scraps? (i.e., garbage disposal, composting or regular trash)

Comments: _____

Would you be willing to participate in food waste recycling program? Some communities have a weekly service which picks up food waste similar to trash and recycling.

☐

YES

☐

NO

Comments: _____

Are you willing to pay for this service (roughly \$30 per month per house) or do you feel that this service should be funded by the Village, similar to the current trash and paper and co-mingled materials recycling programs?

8/4/2014

☐ Resident-Funded (by subscription only) ☐ Village-Funded ☐ 50/50 Cost sharing

Comments: _____

Please return this questionnaire to:
Chevy Chase Village Office
RE: Village Food Waste and Recycling Questionnaire
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Chevy Chase, MD 20815
OR by Fax to (301) 907-9721
Or by Email to ccv@montgomerycountymd.gov

